

Appln No.: 10/605,671
Amendment Dated: April 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 1, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 1, 2006 for the above-captioned application.

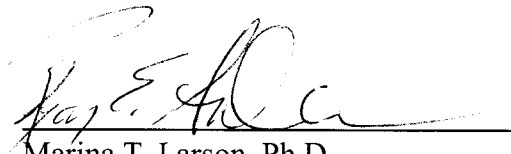
In his October 18, 2005 office action, the Examiner indicated that claims 8-11, 18, 19, 23-28, 37, 38 and 42-47 would be allowable if amended to independent form. On January 12, 2006 in reliance on this statement and without prejudice to their right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims, Applicants made amendments to the claims to place the application in form for allowance. The amendments included, *inter alia*, amending the independent claims to include patentable limitations from the dependent claims that the Examiner stated would place the claims in form for allowance.

On March 1, 2006, the Examiner withdrew his October 18, 2005 indication of allowable subject matter and rejected the amended claims in view of two new references. The Examiner stated that, “[u]pon careful reconsideration of this and other subject matter deemed patentable in the last correspondence, it has been concluded that the limitations of claim 8 and, for that matter, many of the other claims cannot represent a basis for patentability for the reasons delineated *infra*.” See page 2 of the March 1, 2006 office action. The Examiner, instead indicated that claims 4-5, 11, 19, 38, 43-44, 66 (and 70 and 71) would be allowable if they themselves were rewritten in independent form.

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In preparation for filing a Notice of Appeal in this case, Applicants herein cancel all previous claims (i.e. 1 - 71) and add new claims 72 - 132 to reinstate the subject matter of claims 1 - 61 prior to Applicants' January 12, 2006 amendment. For reference, new claim 72 corresponds with original claim 1 and the remaining new claims (73-132) sequentially correspond to claims 2 - 61 as they were prior to the January 12, 2006 amendment. Since the present application has now been twice or more formally rejected and due to the Examiner's inconsistent indications of allowable subject matter, Applicant files herewith a Notice of Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marina T. Larson", is written over a horizontal line.

Marina T. Larson, Ph.D
Reg. No. 32038

Ryan E. Anderson
Reg. No. 51405

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
(970) 262 1800